MESSAGE

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA TERRITORY,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE,

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF ITS

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

FREE PRESS PRINT:

1856.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MINNESOTA TERRITORY.

Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives:

You have appeared at this Capitol as the people's representatives f the seventh session of the Legislature of Minnesota. At no former riod has there been so much cause to be thankful to the Giver of all Good, f all his blessings. On every side we see the signs of increased pros rity in every branch of business. The soil has yielded abundant crops, mmeree and the mechanic arts have flourished, and morality and educa n have kept pace with the other elements of greatness and success. ery section of the Territory has increased in population, general im ovement and wealth, to such an extent as to give us the fullest confidence t our country is rapidly becoming the attracting point for the heavy body immigration from nearly all the older States of the Union, and for the ilustrious and enterprising portion of the foreign-born citizens.

The salubrity of the climate of Minnesota is now being understood and preciated almost everywhere. No epidemics have ever prevailed here an extent causing the least check to business, or alarm to the citizens. very section of the Territory has enjoyed comparative uninterrupted od health.

I am aware that it is more usual in annual messages of this kind, to eak of the prosperity of the country, and place it in a more conspicuous ht, than to record events less agreeable to the people. Yet, this is not e light in which truth and justice demand it shall be viewed in this mmunication. When it shall be written, that the people of this Terri ry are blessed with good health, and the physical man invigorated and aced up to a wonderful capacity of endurance, the citizens of other rts of the country are to understand it as a fact demonstrated by the perience of our whole population. In my last annual communication the Legislature, it gave me great pleasure to record the rapid growth every part of our favored North-west. Then, our hopes and expecta ons of the future were seemingly wrought up to a very extravagant egree, but the most sanguine among us did not anticipate more than

half that the truth has realized. It was then stated that the populatic was about thirty-five thousand. One year has passed since that estimat based upon statistics then in my possession; and our population durir that period, has more than doubled. We know from a census taken tl past season, in pursuance of law, and from statistics gathered from oth reliable sources, that Minnesota this day contains fully seventy five thousand souls—an increase in 1855 of forty thousand, being mo than one hundred and fourteen per cent. Should this ratio of increas continue for two years longer, the population of the Territory or Stat will be over three hundred and forty-three thousand; and should such result continue for three years, our population would reach the a tounding number of seven hundred and thirty-five thousand soul Such an increase would astonish the whole country as much as it woul you and myself, and therefore we are incredulous of what our past exp rience warrants us in expecting for the future. And yet this result is nc to be rejected without calculating the circumstances which are combinin each year to stimulate immigration to new homes in the West. Whe we reflect that the organization of new States and Territories i attracting the attention of the whole American mind, each political cor test relating thereto serving as an advertisement of our Western empir to the citizens of each State, and bringing before the rising generation new world of enterprise and tempting opportunities to wealth and health speculation, we must not be too hasty in fixing the same standard for th future, which has governed us in the past. It must be borne in min that the soil of the old thirteen Colonies or States has been, in most part under cultivation for nearly three quarters of a century, and the exces of their population, within the last ten years, has been moving westward each year making greater and more stringent the necessity for thei seeking new avenues to support, comfort and wealth.

The vast amount of rich soil not yet occupied in our Territory; the unsurpassed water power for propelling machinery of every kind; the extensive pineries for supplying lumber; the inexhaustible copper mine of Lake Superior; the invaluable commerce of the Mississippi, Minne sota and St. Croix rivers; all combine in an eminent degree to invite population, capital and wealth, and it requires no excess of credulity to anticipate the most wonderful progress in the next five years. I trust I shall be pardoned, if, in this connection, I suggest the propriety and public policy of our remaining a Territory for a few years, without manifesting too much eagerness to assume the mantle of State sovereignty. Our progress is rapid, but healthy and permanent, and we can afford to be called political infants, while we are enlarging and developing the bone and muscle which are to give us energy, vigor, and power, when we arrive at manhood.

; is a source of satisfaction to be able to say, that, while the Indian
r es of many of our neighboring Territories are showing signs of hos
tily, and in several instances, of actual and open war upon the white
p ulation, we are secure from such dangers. The three tribes within
ou borders are now, and ever have been, peaceful and quiet. The
lo tion of one tribe does not seem to be satisfactory to a highly respect-
ab portion of our people. Yet the Government at Washington, after
ha ing fully considered a written communication in the nature of a
re onstrance from myself against the location of the Winnebago Indians
o the Blue Earth river, have instructed me that no change can be made;
th t the policy of pushing these children of nature further west will have to
b abandoned; that the people should be advised to reconcile themselves
t he existing state of things, and encourage the Indians to settle down
t uch industrial pursuits as will best comport with a speedy civilization
o their race. I have endeavored faithfully to encourage the whole of
th tribes within this superintendency to abandon their warfare against
e h other; to impress upon them the manifest necessity of their adopting
th habits of civilized citizens; and it has been my constant effort, with
t active and full co-operation of the Agents, to restrain them from
a oying the white settlers with their presence and petty depredations.
I we have not been entirely successful, it certainly is not chargeable to
a ant of disposition or effort. The contact of the savage with civilized
m n always produces a state of things, which, in its effects and tendencies,
i most trying and difficult to manage to the satisfaction of the public.
Y t, I am glad to say, all thus far has resulted in maintaining peace and
fendship, without the least interruption since the beginning of the
T rritorial administration. It is believed that, by a tender regard
f the welfare of these Indians, and maintaining a steady and firm policy
i protecting them from the wrongs they sometimes suffer, we shall be
a le to secure the continuance of a permanent peace, until they and their
w hole race shall melt away before that "manifest destiny" which surely
w aits them.

Your attention is called to the urgent necessity of increasing the
s laries of the Auditor, Treasurer, and Superintendent of Common
S hools. It has been with the utmost difficulty that competent persons
h ve been induced to accept and hold these offices. Heretofore I have
r frained from pressing this matter on your attention, owing to our sup-
p sed inability to meet any increased demand upon the treasury. But
n w no such apology can be urged, as we have ample population and
w alth to pay five or six times the present meagre compensation of these
o ficers, without placing heavier burdens upon the tax-payer than at the
t ne of the passage of the law regulating the salaries. The sum paid to
e ch at present is as follows:

Treasurer per annum, - - - - - -	$100,00
Auditor " " - - - - - -	100,00
Superintendent of Common Schools, - - - -	100,00
Making the whole amount to be paid by the people of the Territory for these officers, - - - - -	$300,00

When these salaries were fixed by law, the taxable property of t Territory amounted to a little over one and half million dollars; while 1856 it is estimated at more than fifteen millions.

The duties of the Auditor, Treasurer, and Superintendent of Comm Schools continue to increase with the increase of population. The a solute necessity of increasing their salaries to at least five hundr dollars each, cannot therefore be too strongly urged upon your consi eration. It is my conviction that no competent persons can be prevail upon to hold these positions, so important to the interest of the Territor for a less sum, unless they are expected to disregard the requiremen of the law, and give them no attention except incidentally. It is al necessary that the law regulating the payment of Territorial taxes in the Treasury be amended.

And is is hoped you will consider this subject at an early day. And will be seen that your revenue laws in many particulars are radical defective and inefficient. You will find also, that there exists a ste necessity for requiring more promptness and fidelity in the discharge the duties of the several county officers, and you will materially subserv the interest of the people by providing for Auditors in each county.

Since the last session of the Legislature, it has been deemed necessar under the Territorial laws, and under the provisions of the Organic Act to appoint certain officers in the several unorganized counties. Th Congress of the United States has given us an Organic Act, and we, as Territory, have accepted it, and proceeded to the discharge of goverr mental duties under its provisions. It is therefore our Constitu tion. The 7th section reads as follows:

"That all township, district and county officers, not herein otherwis provided for, shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, in such manner as shall be provided by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota. The Governor shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, appoint al officers not herein otherwise provided for; and in the first instance, the Governor alone may appoint all said officers, who shall hold their office until the end of the next session of the Legislative Assembly."

Under this section, officers have been appointed in the counties o Dodge, Steel, Olmsted, Rice, Carver, Superior, Wright and Stearns. The power to do so has been supposed to be given by the terms of the fore going section. It is clear that the Legislature may provide for the

election of all township, district and county officers. But if it should fail to do so, after constituting the counties by metes and bounds, and after giving them a name, where does the power to give the instruments to execute the laws, reside? If they are counties, they must be supposed to be inhabited; for if they were not, no Legislature would be likely to lay off unoccupied Territory by metes and bounds, and call them counties! In some instances, the law required the Governor to appoint; in others, it did not, but left it in doubt, nor did it attach the unorganized to any organized county for judicial purposes, whereby under existing laws, they could be protected in their civil right, or properly exercise any political privileges. Thus, the question was presented to me, How are these people to secure their rights as legal voters and citizens of the Territory? It surely was not the design of the law making power that the citizens of eight or nine counties should be disfranchised! The 7th section of the Organic Act provides that "in the first instance the Governor alone may appoint all such officers." What officers are here meant, was decided by the Supreme Court of the Territory in 1849, (see journal House of Representatives, 1849, page 225,) *be Township, District and County officers.*

Then, the power to appoint, turns upon the words, "in the first instance." Is it, then, when the *Territory* was first organized, or when the *Counties* were first *erected?* It is confidently believed that the power is in the Governor to appoint county officers "in the first instance," should the law make no provisions on the subject. These words, "in the first instance," in my judgment, refer to the *creation* of a *County*, and the power remains with the Governor, if neglected by the Legislature, as each new county is laid off by law. It has been assumed that these words in the Organic "Act, in the first instance the Governor may appoint, &c," are to be construed to mean, that the Governor may appoint &c. first after and upon the organization of the *Territory.* If this construction obtain, then the Legislature has only to neglect to provide for the election of officers, &c., and five or ten thousand citizens may (by creating districts in which they reside into counties) be disfranchised and left without protection of the law, for nearly one year, or until the meeting of the next Legislature. In my opinion, Congress intended, that upon the organization of new counties, the Legislature should provide by law for the election of such county, township and District officers. And if they failed to do so, the Governor, who is a constituent part of the law making power, should step forward and "in the first instance" appoint them until the meeting of the next Legislature, or until such time as the law authorized the people to elect them.

It should be borne in mind, that under our laws, *unorganized* Coun-

ties can only be attached to organized counties for judicial purposes, an organized county has its own jurisdiction, which is inconsistent w any other jurisdiction unless special provision is made in the act its In one instance the Legislature declared the County of Carver an orga ized County, and attached it to Hennepin County for judicial purpos The same Act prescribed the time and manner of electing all County a Township officers, thus depriving the people of Carver County of an ganization for more than eight months; and upon the petition of a la number of the citizens of that county, I ("in the first instance") a pointed their officers, to serve until the time prescribed by law for ele ing them by the people. In view of all these circumstances, it w deemed proper to appoint officers to execute the laws, during the peri for which the Legislature had left many of their privileges as citizens abeyance, thinking then, as I do now, that it was never intended to d franchise any part of our fellow-citizens, or leave them without the mea to preserve the public peace and execute the laws. If, however, t County had not been declared an organized County, the County of Hen pin might lawfully have extended her jurisdiction to all matters conne ed with the civil rights of the citizens, the collection of taxes and esta lishment of election precincts, &c.

Seeing them, then, in this peculiar position of doubt and uncertain I exercised the power of appointment; which was conceived to be giv under the Organic Act. It is therefore proper that you should dire your attention to this matter, and amend the laws on the subject of unc ganized counties, in such manner as to exclude all doubt.

I regret to say that no report has been made to me of the condition our Common Schools, or their progress in our Territory, owing to t resignation, several months since, of the Superintendent, who was unab to devote the requisite time and attention to the duties of his office, f the meagre salary of one hundred dollars per year; and as yet, I ha not been able to find any person willing to accept it, for the same reaso The late incumbent, Mr. M. C. Baker, was well qualified, and did mo faithfully discharge the duties while he continued to hold the office.

Notwithstanding I have had no report from the Superintendent, yet have been able to learn that nearly every village in the Territory has school for the education of small children, all of which have been w attended. The Hamline University at Red Wing has completed a lar brick building, designed for the preparatory department of that instit tion, which is now in operation under the charge of accomplished pr fessors. The colleges and seminaries of learning in St. Paul are in flourishing condition, and compare favorably with like institutions in t older States. The Territorial University, located at St. Anthony, h

n progressed since last year, for want of funds. You are aware that
to entire townships of land were granted for the exclusive use of
ths institution. The Secretary of the Interior having authorized the se-
lection of the lands to be made, the Regents have appointed Hon. B. B.
MEKER and Hon. JOHN ROLLINS, to discharge that duty, each of whom
h been industriously engaged in making the selections during the past
son. I am informed that twenty-four thousand acres, partly agricul-
tal, and partly pine lands, have already been chosen. I am fully satis-
fi, from reliable information, that these lands, when the patents are is-
sd, will be available at from five to fifteen dollars per acre, as they are
n doubt of the best quality, owing to the early period of their selection,
b gentlemen eminently fitted for the duty, from long residence and inti-
nte acquaintance with every part of the Territory. When the whole is
sected, amounting to forty-six thousand and eighty acres, it is not too
hh an estimate to say, they will bear an average value of ten dollars per
ae in less than five years, and at least five dollars per acre the day the
pents are issued by the Government. At ten dollars per acre, it gives
t's institution an endowment of four hundred and sixty thousand eight
hdred dollars. It therefore becomes a matter for your consideration,
wether something should not be done to place a part of this fund in
sne available shape for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings
ed engaging the services of suitable professors. It is no ordinary work
t found an institution endowed like this with such a munificent grant.
I you should devise a plan to accomplish even the beginning of this
eat work on a permanent basis, it will connect the name of each mem-
r of the seventh Legislature with the history of his country, in a form
which he may well be proud.

For the last eighteen months much solicitude has been felt on the sub-
jt of connecting this city, St. Anthony and Stillwater, by railroad
th Dubuque, in Iowa, and Lake Superior. A charter was granted to
company styled the Minnesota and North Western Railroad Company,
believed then and now, with powers most extraordinary and danger-
s to the future welfare and security of the people. At the last session,
is charter was re-enacted and amended. Among other things the
nendments required the deposit in stocks or money, of one hundred and
ty thousand dollars, with certain gentlemen of the Territory, who were
quired to give security for its safe keeping, &c. This deposit was de-
gned as security for the faithful performance of the requirements of
eir charter. The fifth section of said act provides, that if said
ompany do not accept of this act and the act to which this a supple-
ent within six months from the passage hereof, then all lands before
entioned, together with the property and franchises of said company,
all be forfeited to the Territory.

It becomes my duty to inform you that no such deposit of one hun dred and fifty thousand dollars as required, has been made, nor has th said company, so far as I am informed, accepted said amendments. B the annual report of the said company it appears they have "not as ye expended any sum whatever in the construction of the Road, contem plated in and by its charter, or in the machinery therefor or the appu tenances belonging thereto." Nor has any sum been received by the com pany during the past year. But they have expended, during the pas year, seven thousand nine hundred five dollars and twenty-six cents– for what particular object is not stated, nor have I been advised that an authorized recognizance, survey or location of said contemplated roa has been commenced, nor any thing done in constructing the telegrap between Dubuque and St. Paul, as required by their charter.

It remains now with you to take such action as may seem proper an just in the premises.

It is not in my power, as at present advised, to inform you what wi be the probable result of the suit now pending between the United State and this company touching the question of title to the lands heretofor granted by the Congress of the United States to this Territory to aid i constructing said road, and afterwards repealed. If the company shoul fail in the said suit, then it will be for our Territory to adopt measure to procure the aid of Congress to assist us in constructing a road, on th line heretofore proposed, at least from this city to the Iowa line. It i further my opinion that if the old charter to the M. & N. W. R. R. Co was out of the way, the present Congress could be prevailed upon to re peal their repealing act and restore the land to the Territory. In th next place, should this fail us, I would suggest the propriety of memorial izing Congress to permit our Territory to enter, at one dollar and twen ty-five cents per acre, on five years credit, alternate sections, in like man ner and to like amount as before, for the line of road originally proposed This will secure the completion of the road quite as speedily as the firs grant, as I am advised and believe. In my opinion this latter plan wil be favorably considered and promptly acted upon by Congress, and i active measures are taken it will in all probability succeed.

If the suit now pending, involving the title to the late grant of lands should be decided against the present organized company, we need no expect them to build the road as contemplated. I feel it my duty also to say that if the late amendments to the charter of this company are in force and of any binding validity, the old charter and all its grants, pow ers and privileges are forfeited to the Territory, unless you should restor them by a new charter. Or if the amendments of last session are inop erative, then the old charter is forfeited for the non-fulfillment of its re

irements: that is to say, if the first amendment passed last session is stand without reference to the second amendment, the franchises of id Company are yet in force. If the second amendment is a nullity, not binding on the Company, it still leaves the franchises of the mpany in force. But if the second amendment is to be held valid d binding on the Company, then all their franchises are forfeited to e Territory. But if both amendments are in force, then their franisements are forfeited; or if both amendments are invalid, then their anchises are forfeited under the old Charter, unless you should again mend it so as to restore to them what they have lost by their own deult. I trust, therefore, that you will take definite action for some new lan to obtain aid from Congress, to assist in opening a speedy communication by railroad from this place to the Iowa line, or to such other ore convenient point as you may deem best. If you should deem it est to stand still and wait for the M. & N. W. R. R. Co. to build the ad, and until the pending suit involving the title to these lands is settled, e it so; but it is feared the result will prove a severe tax on our credulity. should be glad to see an outlet by railroad from our winter prison home to he nearest point of uninterrupted communication with the East and outh at any sacrifice of individual opinion as to policy, and indeed at ny other reasonable sacrifice save the honor of our Territory and the nthralment of those who are to take our places.

There are several projects in contemplation to reach this Territory by ailroads. One from Green Bay was spoken of by my predecessor. Another, from Manitowoc, on Lake Michigan, to this point. A third, rom Milwaukee to La Crosse, about one hundred and twenty miles by and, and one hundred and fifty-five by water, below this city. A fourth pproaching the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, distant from his place by water about two hundred and ninety miles. A fifth, from he Iowa line, by way of St. Paul, to Lake Superior. The lines of road which reach the Mississippi River at La Crosse and Prairie du Chien, will no doubt be completed at an early day, as they are, to some extent nder contract and partly finished. It is essential to the future prosperity of Minnesota that we should avail ourselves of the route which promises to let us out during the winter season in the shortest possible period. It is evident then, to my mind, that if we can command any means, through the action of Congress or otherwise, we should seize the opportunity to join hands with that route pointing to Minnesota most likely to reach us first.

The difficulty with which we have to contend in waiting for any line proposed from Lake Michigan to this point, is, that St. Paul is but eighteen miles distant from the Wisconsin line in that direction, and

could command but little assistance from a grant of land by Congress to aid us. On the other hand, if we desire to meet the road coming from the interior of Wisconsin to La Crosse, by running the road from opposite St. Paul, on the west side of the Mississippi to a point opposite La Crosse, we have the distance of one hundred and twenty miles in our Territory passing through a beautiful country eminently adapted for a railroad, and where the government has large tracts of vacant land which may be made available for our assistance. In this project, we secure the wealth, prosperity and growth of our own Territory from one end of the line to the other.

It has *seemed* to be the object of much former legislation in this Territory on the subject of railroads, to provide for reaching Lake Superior before we reach the lines of communication East or South. It appears incomprehensible to me how this sort of legislation will get us out from the valley of the Mississippi in *winter*. Such a connection has incalculable advantages for summer travel and transportation, but it brings us no nearer New York or Chicago in the *winter* than we are now. That it is evident, we must look either South or East of Lake Superior for a winter road. From the Lake to Green Bay is farther than from St. Paul to Green Bay, and much farther than St. Paul is from Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Madison or Chicago.

A speedy connection with Lake Superior is highly desirable, and its importance fully appreciated. Our people, however, want a winter communication South-east with the older States *first*, or I have misapprehended the true interest of a large portion of the people of Minnesota. It is worthy of observation that a line of railroad from St. Paul, by way La Crosse, to Madison and Chicago, is the most direct route by which we can reach the great Railroad City of the North-west. But at the same time, we must keep steadily in view the importance of a speedy connection with Dubuque by a road west of the Mississippi river.

The Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company are pushing forward their road into the interior of Iowa with much rapidity; and, I am informed by some of their officers, that they design at an early period to tap the agricultural valley of the Minnesota, at or near its great bend. It behooves, then, the citizens of the valley of the Upper Mississippi to so guard their interests as to be able to command the trade of the Upper Minnesota, or it will be snatched from them by some point on the Mississippi, at or below Dubuque. This can be done to some extent, for a few years, by procuring an additional appropriation for the Mendota and Big Sioux Government Road, now being rapidly constructed under the charge of a highly competent and efficient officer, Capt. J. H. Simpson of the corps of Topographical Engineers, by which means permanent

bdges can be built over the streams; and also, by taking measures to
re substantial improvements made in the navigation of the Minnesota
rer. To accomplish the latter object, a plan can be adopted which
wl place the matter beyond any reasonable doubt.

While I am bringing to your attention some of the improvements ne-
c sary to the development of our resources, I would suggest further the
nessity of a Government Road from Lake Superior to the Mississippi
Iver at some point above the Falls of Saint Anthony. This would
nt only be a great convenience to the National Government as
ameans of reaching her military stations at Fort Ripley and Pem-
ba, but would also connect the agricultural valley of the Upper
Assissippi River with the Lake, where mining and manufacturing
ust soon spring up, demanding for the subsistence of the laboring class-
e the products of that agricultural region. The present is an appro-
piate occasion for the suggestion that a military road is necessary to
nch Fort Ridgley, the Sionx Agency, and the new Fort at Pembina,
om some point below Lake Pepin. Its utility and paramount public
iportance are made clearly manifest by a glance at the map of our Ter-
rory. It is hoped that some action will be taken for its construction by
te Government.

Under the act of Congress granting certain swamp and overflowed
nds to the States in which they respectively lie, it has been held by the
ommissioner of the General Land Office, that Territories, upon becom-
g States, are entitled to share in the benefits of the grant. It is be-
ved, therefore, that some action may and should be taken to secure to
ur future State the benefits accruing under said act. What is deemed
cessary to be done by you, will be for your consideration, and it is
oped it will not be overlooked.

The Commissioner of Immigration, EUGENE BURNAND, Esq., appoi:-
l under the act of the last Legislature, proceeded to New York as so
ter his appointment as funds could be procured from the Territori
reasury to defray the incidental expenses of his mission. I am happy
o say, that he has most faithfully devoted himself to the objects intend-
l to be accomplished by the creation of the office. He has opened an
fice at No. 1 Battery Place, opposite Castle Garden, New York, and
as also entered into a correspondence with five prominent and leading
ewspapers published in Germany, and caused advertisements to be insert-
l in the principal journals of New York, some of which are sent to Europe
o be put on board every vessel carrying emigrants to the United States,
y which means they are read during the voyage. His reports are made
o the Executive quarterly, from which it will be seen, that no great ef-
ect can be produced until the spring of 1856. It is also stated that up

to September, 1854, there arrived in New York 215,452 emigrants to the same date in 1855, 95,945, showing a decrease from the previous year of 119,507. This diminution is attributed partly (and as I conceive very justly) to the political excitement in this country, created by the unjust and intolerant spirit of Know Nothingism toward foreigners and Catholics; but the unconstitutional and anti-republican measures opposed by this secret order will soon be overwhelmed by the good sense and "sober second thought" of our people, and the confidence of the foreigner in the permanency and liberality of our Government restored. Our great and growing West is deeply interested in the speedy consummation of this desirable end. It is believed that the ensuing spring will bring to our Territory a much larger population than any previous season.

The financial condition of the Territory will fully appear by reference to the Report of the Auditor and Treasurer, to which you are respectfully referred.

By the Auditor's Report it will be seen that the taxable property of fourteen counties, (being all that have made returns to that office,) amounts to nine million, twenty-five thousand, one hundred and forty-seven dollars, while the estimate for the past year, including all the counties, only amounted to seven million dollars; yet the returns from fourteen counties alone show an increase over the estimate for the whole, of two million, twenty-five thousand, one hundred and fifty seven dollars; and the estimate for 1856 is fifteen million dollars. Thus you will perceive, that not only has our population doubled in 1855, but the taxable property has increased in a like ratio.

Therefore it will be seen that no returns have been reeeived from the counties of Winona, Olmsted, Mower, Dodge, Steele, Farribault, Brown, Pierce, Davis, Scott, Carver, Wright, Todd, Wabashaw, Rice, Itasca, Doty, Superior, Freeborn, Renville and Pembina; and as they were all attached to other counties for judicial purposes, most probably have paid no taxes, or at least with but a few exceptions; yet they are represented in this Legislature. From this I conclude that twenty million dollars would not be too large an estimate for the taxable property of the Territory for 1856.

It appears from the report of the Treasurer, that

Ramsey County owes the Territory a balance yet unpaid of - -	$9,302 9
Sibley County " " " " " " " - - -	42 8
Scott County " " " " " " " - - -	164 3
Stearns " " " " " " " - - -	102 5
Benton " " " " " " " - - -	786 4
Blue Earth " " " " " " " - - -	71 2

Hisago County owes the Territory a balance yet unpaid of									-	466 98
Acota	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	505 88
Fillmore	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	355 88
Goodhue	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	199 82
Hennepin	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	505 78
Houston	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	412 40
Laseur	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	56 68
Piccolett	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	138 13
Making in all	"			"		"			-	$ 13,171 95

Such a state of things evidently needs a remedy, and it is presented to your consideration, with the hope that such provisions may be made by law as will equalize the taxes, and enforce their collection, and not allow the Counties which have faithful and competent officers to pay more than their just share of the public burdens.

As yet there has been no general organization of the Militia of the Territory, but from the most reliable information it has been possible to obtain, the number of persons over eighteen and under forty-five years of age, and capable of bearing arms, is about twelve thousand.

During the past year, I have corresponded with the Chief of the Ordinance Department at Washington City, and find that there is due this Territory about nineteen hundred stand of arms. Upon my requisition lately forwarded to that office, we are to receive one thousand muskets and the necessary accoutrements, by the first boats in the spring.

During the past year a sale of the public lands has taken place at the several Land Offices in the Territory, and in most instances they have been purchased by actual settlers, yet in some cases large quantities have gone into the hands of men of heavy means to be held for purposes of speculation. It is very desirable, in my judgment, to have the lands offered for sale in small quantities, and not until the actual settler has had ample oportunity to preempt his home. If your honorable body should concur in this view, you may no doubt be able to prepare such a memorial to the President of the United States as will induce him to have the sales conform to the wishes of the peopleof the Territory. You are presumed to know their wants and interests, and should not fail to express your views on this subject.

It is a source of much satisfaction to observe the laudable efforts being made by our people in the cause of Literature and Science, and particularly in the reorganization of the Minnesota Historical Society, under circumstances that give the fullest assurance that no effort will be spared to place it upon a basis of the most honorable distinction. It will be a matter of much interest to the coming generation to have perpetuated the monuments of our early history, not only in this Territory,

but for the whole North-west; and no institution at present promises to accomplish so much as this Society. It is recommended that a small appropriation be made for the purpose of aiding in the advancement of these objects.

One of the most important means to prevent fraud and imposition upon the law-making power, and indeed upon the country, is, to have but one subject matter in each bill, and that clearly indicated in the title; otherwise many very objectionable laws may be enacted, entirely escaping the attention of the most watchful members. It is earnestly hoped that this matter will receive your attention. In many instances your body may fully concur in every section of a bill, although matters are therein contained, utterly dissimilar in every respect, and the Executive disposed to concur in part most cheerfully, yet be opposed to others. It is therefore forcing that officer to approve what to him may be objectionable, or defeat a part of a bill highly important to the country. This notice would not have been taken of the matter had not previous legislation abounded in such evils. In some of the states, this subject has been deemed of sufficient importance to have a place in their Constitution, to the effect that no bill shall contain more than one subject matter, and that clearly expressed in the title.

The policy of procuring an act of Congress granting a homestead to settlers in this Territory, of one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon condition of actual settlement and cultivation for a limited period, and without cost, has been heretofore brought to the attention of the Legislature, and the reason and necessity of such a law is yet of paramount importance to the speedy settlement of the North-western country. Nearly all the organized Territories have received large donations to settlers, and it is believed that no satisfactory reasons exist why Minnesota should be made an exception. The increase of facilities for procuring free homes to settlers, rises above every other consideration to Minnesota. There is not a member of the present Legislature but could induce from ten to twenty families from the States to make this their permanent home, if they could write, or tell them, that here they could have one hundred and sixty acres of land free of cost, upon the condition alone of settlement and cultivation; and a vigorous population of producers from Europe would crowd here in such numbers, as never before has been known. Nothing so eminently contributes to the commerce of the world as the products of Agriculture; and nothing could be done by you to expedite the building of Rail Roads, or opening and improving the various channels of communication, so much as your success in procuring free homes for the people. Nor can you ever expect to confer a more permanent blessing than this upon our citizens.

ut it is sometimes said we cannot succeed in getting a homestead! is is certainly true, if you despond before you try. Such a prize is thy of your most vigorous efforts. Others occasionally say, if we get homestead for settlers, we cannot get a grant for railroads. To this uld say, *homes for the people first*, and railroads afterward.

he people of Minnesota must, at no very distant day, expect to be ad- ed into the Union as a State; and it behooves us, as sentinels on the h-tower of National patriotism, to cling to those cherished princi- of the equality and rights of the States under the Constitution.

o portion of the habitable globe has ever before formed a Govern- t where so much power has been left to the people, nor where so h freedom has been secured to the citizens; none where mankind has yed so eminently civil and religious liberty; none that has ever in- ed so much patriotism; and none, perhaps, that requires the exercise much toleration and forbearance toward our fellow man.

he excitement on the subject of Slavery, is perhaps the most dan- ous of all others. Its tendency to array political parties by geograph- lines, was seen, felt and feared by Washington and Jefferson in the ier days of the Republic, and is yet exercising the minds of our wi- and best men.

e annexation of new Territory to the United States has given rise to new sour- f agitation and alarm. The Act of Congress, passed the sixth of March, 1820, the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min. North latitude as a boundary line to govern vexed question, was regarded by the most eminent statesman of his age, Mr. Jef- n, as "a barrel thrown out to the whale by the federal party," to ultimate in issolution of our Union, and it would seem that this language, uttered somewhat in spirit of prophecy, is to become the truth of history unless the prudent and con tive counsels of statesmen of enlarged and national views shall soon prevail.

the experiment of man's capacity to govern himself, as inaugurated by Jeffer- shall be permitted to succeed, all limits of latitude restricting the people to a fixed on any particular subject, must be abolished and never again established, the world acknowledges the experiment in America as a failure. The organi- n of Territorial governments in Kansas and Nebraska was a fit and appropriate sion to remove all obstacles in the way of the people governing themselves in own manner. If the American people are capable of forming their own do- ic institutions South of 36 deg. 30 min. North latitude, it is to me incompre- ible why they are not equally capable of doing so North of that line. And to this position, presupposes less mental, moral or physical capacity North of 36 30 min. North latitude, than there is South of it. It has therefore been wise- dered by Congress that this question of Slavery shall forever hereafter be left to people of the States and Territories, to dispose of as they may decide best, and ough any privilege of the citizens, either civil or religious, may be abused, yet is very far from proving that it should be entirely taken from them, on one side geographical line, and permitted on the other. It is to be hoped that our expe-

rience of the past, and the threatening dangers of the present, will moderate the fan ical spirit of the times, and leave the question of Slavery to the people, to whom properly belongs, if man is capable of self-government.

It is a source of satisfaction to witness the steady progress of all the elements n essary to develop the numerous resources of our Territory, and elevate our moral, cial and political condition. While most of our neighboring Territories are bei convulsed with Indian wars and internal political strife almost verging upon ci war, we are calmly moving forward to the accomplishment of a high destiny, by fai fully observing the laws of our country, and resting our hopes upon the virtue a moderation of the people, with a firm reliance upon their capacity for self gove ment.

As citizens of a common country, we have observed with deep interest the str adherence of our National Administration to the principles of the Constitution the United States, and their maintenance of a strict neutrality toward the pres belligerent powers of Europe. Not only have they maintained peace at home, a with all the civilized world, but they have infused into the Administration of the rious departments of the Government the highest regard for integrity and fidelit

It will be very gratifying to me to concur and co-operate with you in all measu which you may devise for promoting the prosperity of our Territory.

I trust your deliberations may be characterized by moderation; that each n look upon mere difference of opinion in political questions with a liberal spirit, a that each of your legislative acts may be a triumph of principle, and right, and just over passion and prejudice.

W. A. GORMAN

NOTE—At the bottom of on Act entitled "an Act for a line of Telegraph fr St. Paul to St. Anthony and Minneapolis," I find that the name of the County Superior was changed to "St. Louis," which Act passed on the night of the 3d March, 1855, and the laws not being printed until within the last few days, it w not before discovered, and therefore the County of Superior was recognized by as such, until the morning of the 4th inst.